

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The City Of Augusta

Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION of “2004 CSRA HIV/AIDS Awareness Week”

WHEREAS, the global epidemic of HIV infection and AIDS requires a worldwide effort to enhance tolerance and understanding while communicating awareness and prevention information about the epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has acknowledged the need to expand efforts to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS by providing accurate information on HIV prevention, complacency and stigma, and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, last year, the global AIDS pandemic claimed an estimated 3 million lives, and an estimated 5 million people acquired HIV – bringing to 40 million the estimated number of women, men and children living with the virus worldwide; and

WHEREAS, integrating awareness and prevention into treatment must be common practice – we must not sacrifice awareness and prevention at the expense of treatment; and

WHEREAS, without effective comprehensive prevention education for all, the number of people living with HIV will continue to escalate, with disastrous short – and long-term effects; and

WHEREAS, only one out of nine people has access to voluntary counseling and testing. Stigma constitutes a major barrier to people coming forward for an HIV test. Knowledge of HIV status is the gateway to AIDS treatment and has documented prevention benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Young, Mayor of the City of Augusta, do hereby proclaim the week of July 19 – 24, 2004, as Global Community Development’s “2004 CSRA HIV/AIDS AWARENESS WEEK” in Augusta, Georgia, and urge all citizens to take part in activities and observances designed to increase awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS and challenge all citizens to think about how their thoughts and actions can affect communities, individuals and their own health in preventing the contraction and spread of HIV/AIDS.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Augusta, Georgia, to be affixed this 19th day of July 2004.

Mayor